15: Nakane E-9 (1955-1956) 1967 AR? Khasi AR?

I. Setting and Economic Background of Sohkyndoh and Kongton

361 Sohkyndoh and Kongton are villages of the Kadashinong,[1] one of
692 the areas under the Cherra Chief. The Kadashinong is situated on
[131] the southern slope of the Khasi Hills, in what is called War country. These two villages are situated at the farthest point from both Shella, the centre bordered by the plain, and Cherrapunjee, the seat of the
184 Cherra Chief, one of the centres of the upland Khasi Hills. The people
121 at Cherrapunjee say that these villages are one of the most backward
[171] parts of the Khasi Hills. They correspond to Rombagiri in the Garo Hills, as they lie in the innermost parts and more traditional economic and social settings have been preserved there than in other villages. These are also the reasons why I selected those villages as my field.

361 It is nine miles to Sohkyndoh from Cherrapunjee, crossing two
[131] deep valleys towards the east. Kongton is located at the heart of
[487] the mountain ranges, ten miles from Cherrapunjee, towards the north-east. It is about twelve miles from Sohkyndoh to Kongton, and
[162] the way leads through one of the most difficult passes, where even villagers seldom travel. In December, 1955, Sohkyndoh was a community of 48 households (List 6), and Kongton of 62 households (List 9). The settlements of both villages are clustered in the southern depressions of a mountain, not far from the summit, a typical location
[134] of Khasi villages. Sohkyndoh has poor soil, covered with plenty of pieces of stones. The yield therefore is very poor. On the other hand, Kongton, a much older village, enjoys fertile soil, and is one of the most prosperous communities in the Kadashinong.

241 The major economy of both villages is shifting cultivation. We have already seen, in the chapters on the Garo, the fundamental technique of "Jhuming cultivation." The differences between the
423 Garo and the Khasi shifting cultivation are to be found in two aspects: one is the nature of the crops and the other is the type of landownership. In this area, the main crop is millet, while that of the Garo is rice. Besides the shifting cultivation, the Khasi have paid-out gardens
[171] [241] and sometimes pineapple gardens, though on a small scale and not in every household. The most important feature of Khasi shifting cultivation is the development of private ownership. In the tribal areas in Assam, such private ownership of the jhum field is quite an

1. Kadashinong is the name of a group of villages. Its literal meaning is "twelve villages," and it comprises the following villages: Sohkyndoh, Kyrmoni, Mawhawein, Mawshisit, Mawmang, Kongton, Shwesiang, Kynthyrkhat, Pilli, Tenchon, Nongpyrung, and Dienpasoh. (Khasi spelling follows the customary usage in Cherra State.)

[illegible] 175
[illegible] 619
[illegible] 648
[illegible] [784]

[illegible] [651]

[illegible] [178]

[illegible] 177
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]

[illegible] [97]

[illegible] 646
[illegible] 646

[illegible] [561]

[illegible] [118]

[illegible] 361
[illegible] [362]

22: Plates C-6 (no date) 1917 AR? Khasi AR?

Khasis, have, ever since the measures of improvement which (above), remained peaceable and contented.

GENERAL ASPECT OF THE COUNTRY.—The District consists almost entirely of hills, only a very small portion lying in the plains. The slope of the hills on the southern side is steep, until a table-land is met with at an elevation of about 4000 feet. Higher up there is another plateau at Nongkrem, ten miles to the eastward of which, and in the same mountain range, the Civil Station of Shillong is situated at an elevation of 4,908 feet above sea level. On the northern side of the hills are two plateaus, one between 2000 and 3000 feet below the level of Shillong, and the second lower down, about 3000 feet above sea level. In general features all these plateaus are much alike, and consist of a succession of undulating downs, broken here and there by the valleys of the larger hill streams. In the higher ranges, where the hills have been denuded of trees, the country is covered with short grass, which becomes longer and more rank in the lower elevations. A remarkable feature in the aspect of the country throughout the hills is the numerous sacred groves which superstition has preserved from time immemorial from the destructive hand of the woodcutter. These sacred groves contain beautiful timber-trees of various kinds, rare orchids, rhododendrons, wild fruit, cinnamon. On the more elevated table-lands, pine trees and stunted oak are met with; and in the lower hills, in every direction, are dense forests of the usual Indian trees, containing valuable timber.

GEOLOGY.—The geological formation is mainly granitic, with stratified rocks of sandstone, limestone, and shale. The coal-beds rest on trap and metamorphic rocks. The prevailing surface soil is a red ferruginous loam.

MOUNTAINS.—The principal mountain ranges and highest peaks in the Khasi and Jaintia Hills are as follow:—(1) The Shillong range—height of principal peak, [illegible] feet above sea level. (2) [illegible] range—highest peak, 6137 feet. (3) Lite-ryn-iid range—highest peak, 5775 feet. (4) Lite-mate-doh range—highest peak, 5777 feet. (5) Lite-ker-oh—highest peak, [illegible] feet. (6) Lite-kah range—highest peak, 4282 feet. (7) Lyng-kor-doo range—highest peak, 5000 feet. (8) Lum-lniang range—highest peak, 4898 feet. (9) Wite-ryn-iew range—highest peak, 5800 feet.

The principal mountains are:—(1) Rup-lang—height, 5850 feet.

20: Manipur G-4 (no date) 1897 AR? Khasi AR?

extent of waste land, some is cultivated in a manner resembling the *jhum* system,—successive crops are grown on a patch of land till the soil is exhausted, and then another spot is selected, where the same process is repeated afresh, but without anything that can be called a *jhum* system. Any owning of land is exceptional, and there are no recognized rates of rent. The Deputy-Commissioner, however, states that an ordinary rate for rented land would be from two to three shillings a year for as much land as an individual can cultivate with his own hands.

Manure is generally used in raising rice and potatoes. It is seldom purchased, the dung and litter of the cattle and other animals about the house being generally utilized for the purpose. For rice fields a little less than half a ton of manure, but for potatoes upwards of two tons, is required per acre. Manure, if purchased, would cost from 2s. 3½d. to 3s. 9d. per acre for rice land, and for potato fields from 11s. to 18s. per acre.

Irrigation for agricultural purposes is regularly practised. Water is brought to the land by means of channels cut from the numerous hill streams in the neighbourhood of the fields. Wells and tanks are unknown. The work of irrigation by means of these channels is very easily carried on, and at a very trifling outlay. Rotation of crops is not practised in the Hills.

Model Farm.—The Shillong Model Farm, established in 1873, has not proved a success. Experiments tried with wheat give some hope that cold-weather crops may profitably be introduced into the Hills. Two new varieties of potato—'red rosyln' and 'pheasant's eye'—were successfully introduced in 1873-74; but these are not looked upon favourably by the Khásis, as they only give one crop in the year, whereas the ordinary variety yields two crops. Several fruit-trees have been planted out, including apple, pear, cherry, nectarine, and plum; and the tables of the European [illegible] the experimenters has been rendered into Assamese, and copies have been distributed among the adjoining Hill tribes. The general failure in all the agricultural experiments is attributed partly to the unfitness of the soil, and still more to the ravages of white ants and other insects peculiar to the Hills. The attempts to improve the indigenous breeds of live stock have been equally unfortunate. During the two years 1873-74 the sum of Rs. 1700